

Voluntary Resolution Agreement
Howard County Public Schools
OCR No. 03221172
Philadelphia Office

The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Howard County Public Schools (the District) enter into this Voluntary Resolution Agreement (Agreement) to resolve the allegation in the above-referenced complaint. This Agreement does not constitute an admission of liability, non-compliance, or wrongdoing by the District. Prior to the completion of OCR’s investigation, the District agreed to resolve the issues of this investigation pursuant to Section 302 of OCR’s Case Processing Manual (CPM).

The District assures OCR that, to resolve the issues of this investigation, it will take the following actions to comply with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), as amended, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II), 42 U.S.C. Sections 12131, and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by recipients of Federal financial assistance and public entities, respectively.

ACTION STEPS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. By October 30, 2022, the District will convene a multidisciplinary team (Team) meeting to include relevant educational specialists who have knowledge about the Student and the Student’s disabilities, to determine whether the Student suffered any educational loss and/or is entitled to compensatory education or remedial services due to the District’s alleged failure to implement the provision of the Student’s Section 504 Plan requiring XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

The District will invite the Complainants to attend the meeting at least 15 calendar days in advance of the meeting and will allow them seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the letter to submit a written response to the invitation.

Specifically, the Team will review whether the Student suffered an educational loss because of the District’s alleged failure to provide him with XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX, as required by his Section 504 plan, during the XXXXX school year. If the Team determines that the Student suffered an educational loss, it will then determine whether the loss entitles the Student to compensatory education services. In making this determination, the Team will adhere to the requirements of 34 C.F.R. § 104.35 (evaluation and placement) and § 104.36 (procedural safeguards). The District will provide the Complainants with a meaningful opportunity to provide input into the Team’s determination.

If the Team determines that the Student is entitled to compensatory education or services, the Team will develop a plan for providing the required education or services, and the District will provide such education or services in addition to any other service to which the Student is entitled.

Reporting Requirement: By November 15, 2022, the District will submit, for OCR’s review and approval, documentation reflecting the Team’s decision and showing that the meeting required by Action Item 1 took place. Before approving the District’s decision and plan for providing any proposed services, OCR will review the documentation to ensure that the District met the procedural requirements of the regulation implementing Section 504, at 34 C.F.R. §§ 104.35 and 104.36, in making its determination. The documentation submitted shall include: a copy of the invitation to the Complainants; a list of attendees by name and title; the information considered by the Team; an explanation for all decisions made, including the Team’s decision as to whether the Student suffered an educational loss; a description of the types of compensatory education or other remedial service options discussed, if applicable; a description of and schedule for providing compensatory and/or remedial services to the Student for educational loss (if any); confirmation that the procedural safeguards were provided to the Complainants; and a copy of any meeting minutes or notes.

2. Within 15 calendar days of OCR’s approval of the Team’s decision described in Action Step 1 above, the District will provide the Complainants with written notice of the outcome of the meeting, including: a description of any educational loss; a description of any compensatory educational services to be provided; and the appropriate beginning and ending dates for these services, as applicable.

If compensatory educational services are determined to be necessary for the Student, the District will inform the Complainants and provide 15 calendar days to respond to the offer. The notice will also inform the Complainants of the applicable procedural safeguards, in accordance with the requirements of 34 C.F.R. § 104.36. If compensatory services are warranted, and the Complainants accept the District’s offer, the District agrees to begin providing the compensatory services within 15 calendar days from the date the Complainants accept the District’s offer.

If the Team determines that no educational loss occurred or that no compensatory services are necessary, the District will provide in its written notice to the Complainants a written explanation of its decision, along with a notice of the procedural safeguards.

Reporting Requirement: Within 30 days of OCR’s approval of the Team’s decision described in Action Step 1, the District will submit to OCR documents confirming that it has complied with Action Step 2, including a copy of the written notice to the Complainants and, if applicable, a description of and schedule for providing any compensatory education services to the Student.

By signing the Agreement, the District agrees to provide data and other information in a timely manner in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Agreement. During the monitoring of the Agreement, if necessary, OCR may visit the District, interview staff and students, and request such additional reports or data as are necessary for OCR to determine whether the District has fulfilled the terms of the Agreement.

